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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 279847

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:EHKELLY/EA/ROC:JPLEONARD:LM
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PM:RPHELPS
DOD/ISA/EAPR:TJBIGLEY
EA/RA/PMU:RFINCH
S/P:RFINN
EA/TB:VLTOMSETH
S/S O:L.MATTESON
NSC: WRSMYSER
---------- 007186
R 212314Z DEC 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

S E C R E T STATE 279847

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MOPS, TM, TW, KS

SUBJECT: SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN WEAPONS/MUNITIONS PRODUCTION

REF: A. BANGKOK 18881 B. SEOUL 8259 C. TAIPEI 7174

1. WE HAVE YOUR SUGGESTION (REF A) AS WELL AS COMMENTS IN RESPONSES OF TAIPEI AND SEOUL (REFS B AND C) UNDER REVIEW. OUR REACTION IS THAT THE U.S. SHOULD NOT BECOME INVOLVED AS INTERMEDIARY BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED IN DEVELOPING DEFENSE INDUSTRY RELATIONSHIP. OUR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OR STIMULATION OF SUCH RELATIONSHIPS COULD LEAD TO FALSE EXPECTATIONS OR PRESSURES TO SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS WHICH COULD POSSIBLY CONFLICT WITH STATUTORY OR POLICY REQUIRE-
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MENTS AND U.S. COMMERCIAL INTERESTS. FURTHER, AS EMBASSY

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SEOUL POINTS OUT, WE SUSPECT THERE WILL BE MUCH MORE INTEREST ON PART OF EACH GOVERNMENT IN SELLING ITS MATERIAL, NOT IN BUYING THE OTHER'S PRODUCT. THEREFORE THAI SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE ENCOURAGED TO SEND TEAMS TO ROC AND ROK.

2. IN EXPRESSING OUR RESERVATIONS ABOUT USG INVOLVEMENT, WE OBVIOUSLY DO NOT WISH TO OBSTRUCT THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORMAL COMMERCIAL RELATIONSHIPS WHERE THERE IS NO CONFLICT WITH OUR OWN POLICY/LEGAL RESTRAINTS. HOWEVER, THESE ARE INITIATIVES THE INDIVIDUAL GOVERNMENTS SHOULD TAKE. IN THE CASE OF THE ROC, ALTHOUGH WE WOULD NOT GO SO FAR AS TO BLOCK ROC/THAI COOPERATION ACHIEVED THROUGH STRICTLY BILATERAL CHANNELS, SUGGESTION THAT WE SOLICIT AND ENCOURAGE ROC PARTICIPATION IN COOPERATIVE EFFORTS WITH THAILAND FOR MILITARY PRODUCTION IS CONTRARY TO OUR OVERALL CHINA POLICY. SISCO

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